

BUSINESS briefly

Symbion pulling up stakes in Utah, moving to Arizona

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Symbion Inc., the company that makes the Jarvik-7 artificial heart, plans to move to the Arizona State University Research Park in Tempe from Salt Lake City, a company official said.

Symbion chief financial officer Lane Castleton refused to discuss details of the move but did confirm it would take place. ASU officials also declined comment.

Last year ASU officials applied for a \$1.1 million grant to implant the artificial heart into 40 calves. At that time, Symbion officials said they planned to relocate their offices to the school that won the grant. The project didn't receive funding, Steve Koppes, ASU public information officer said Wednesday.

Dr. Robert Jarvik, who developed the artificial heart, was fired as Symbion chairman soon after the venture capital firm of Warburg, Pincus Capital Co. acquired a controlling interest in 1987. The heart that bore his name is now known as the Symbion-7.

Symbion has reduced its employment to 25 from 65, and sales have increased in 1988 to \$5.8 million from \$4.3 million the year before. The company also makes an artificial heart valve.

Only five Jarvik-7 artificial hearts were permanently implanted into humans before researchers determined it caused unavoidable infections. The transplants were halted after several recipients died of strokes.

Symbion was once closely allied with the University of Utah artificial organ center, but Castleton said those ties have been severed.

1 Sep 1989

Fusion

National institute's open at U.—without national funding or staff

By JoAnn Jacobsen-Wells
Deseret News science writer

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UTAH'S
FUSION
FUTURE

However U. officials, whose convincing sales pitch netted \$5 million in state money (\$500,000

has gone to patent attorneys) for fusion research and development, say there's no need for taxpayers to worry.

The institute's progress, they maintain, is right on track.

"Our main goal during these first months is to organize and operate a coherent, organized research program so the results will come out in a more organized fashion," said James Brophy, U. vice president for research.

"The first month is really set-up time. We have had to tear down the experiments (in departments of chemistry, physics, engineering and mines) that were set up in the university and move them to the institute building, so really no technical performance has been achieved yet."

Some staff members have been hired, and one electrochemist was recruited to the institute before the state money was allocated. But

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FUSION

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the most publicized electrochemist, Pons, is continuing fusion experiments in the basement of the Henry Eyring Chemistry Building. He'll serve only as an adviser to the institute.

Brophy said the U. is talking with two or three other scientists, and six graduate students are expected on staff by month's end.

"But we expect it will be staffed principally by staff from the U. of U. for the first six months while we seek corporate support," Brophy said. "Until the organization really has (the) stability that people will be willing to make a career change to join us, it's likely that people will be coming for various periods of time and retain their connection with their home institution. But as the organization develops we will do permanent recruitment."

Among those positions the U. wants to fill is institute director.

But Hugo Rossi, dean of the College of Science and interim director of the the institute, said efforts to recruit a new director have been hurt by "bad press."

Rossi said officials have considered several people, including Texas A&M University chemist John Bock.

ris, to oversee the institute, but officials decided later that Rossi would stay in his post until the institute was firmly in place.

U. officials have decided to have both a senior scientist and a director — from the corporate world and able to attract corporate donations. Several companies, including General Electric, have expressed interest in the research, but none has provided money, contrary to an Aug. 7 announcement by U. President Chase Peterson.

Brophy said they are in discussions with six private companies, including Westinghouse, regarding fusion funding, and are confident that